

Statement of the Hansa-Conference regarding the General Conference San Antonio vote 2015: the „unity of the world church and women’s ordination”

We, the executive committee of the Hansa-Conference regret the General Conference session’s vote not to allow the Divisions autonomy in questions regarding inclusive ordination (women’s ordination).

We consider ourselves a loyal part of the word church. This decision hasn’t changed that. However, a new conflict has arisen whose substance is less unity or loyalty, but the correct understanding of the gospel itself, which knows no favoritism (Acts 10,34) including our understanding of church offices.

It is our mission to act according to the gospel und to proclaim the three angel’s messages. This message removes ethnic, social and sexual barriers in the church (Gal 3,28).

We see clear signs that the vote of San Antonio alienates many of your young people, women and other church members from our church. The challenges to proclaim the gospel in our field are daunting in the first place, but they have worsened substantially, since the positive communication of this decision to our environment is virtually impossible. No one can permanently maintain outward loyalty with an inward conscientious conflict. We do not expect our sisters, youths and church members to bear this tension. Therefore we as executive committee of the Hansa-Conference declare:

We will continue to encourage female candidates to consider a pastoral formation and career and we are determined to act according to the vote of the Northern German Union of April 23, 2012, and put forth names of candidates for ordination, regardless of their gender.

The executive committee of the Hansa-Conference, Hamburg, November 22, 2015 (14y/3n)